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The Legislature of 1907

By A. Chester Clark

The New Hampshire Legislature of 1907 met on the first Tuesday in January facing an unusual amount of responsibility, with much work already in sight for it to do, and with the eyes of the state fastened upon it in closer and more interested scrutiny than had been the case for many years previous.

The fact that there had been no choice by the people for governor in the election of the previous November devolved the choice of a chief executive upon this General Court, and the expiration of the term of United States Senator Henry E. Burnham gave the Legislature the power of naming a man to sit for six years from March, 1907, in the upper branch of the American Congress at Washington.

The platform pledges of both political parties seemed to give assurance of considerable reform legislation, and it was thought that the likelihood of the fulfillment of these promises was strengthened by the choice as members of the Legislature of two score members of the much vaunted Lincoln Republican Club of New Hampshire. The unusually large Democratic vote for governor had carried with it the election to each branch of the Legislature of more minority members than had been the case in the recent past, and this, too, was held to indicate the probability of a lively session.

When the two bodies came together for organization, with large Republican majorities in both branches, it was found that the majority in the Senate was unanimous in its desire that the only lawyer in its membership, John Scammon of Exeter, should accept the presidency of the upper branch. This he did, and while his acceptance of the position forced him to make up the committees on the judiciary and revision of laws without a lawyer upon either of them, no harm came from this unusual situation. President Scammon proved an ideal presiding officer and, in co-operation with him, the entire Senate worked with less debate than most of its predecessors, but with great efficiency.

In the House Republican caucus there was a contest for the speakership nomination between Hon. Bertram Ellis of Keene, a former president of the Senate, and Col. Walter Scott of Dover, a useful member of the judiciary committee at the session of 1905. Mr. Ellis won and vindicated the choice of the House by presiding with the utmost fairness and courtesy and by displaying a thorough acquaintance with parliamentary law and a notable diligence in attendance and devotion to duty.

The Democrats honored one of their time-tried party members, Doctor Towle of Deerfield, by making him chairman of their party caucus, and one of their younger but most gifted representatives, William A. Plummer, Esq., of Laconia, by giving him their complimentary nomination for speaker.

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Another Democrat, Representative William J. Ahern of Concord, Ward Nine, was the virtual floor leader of the House throughout the session, his committee room and open session experience of many terms, and his expert acquaintance with parliamentary law, and instant grasp of tangled situations, making him a member whose service was almost invaluable.

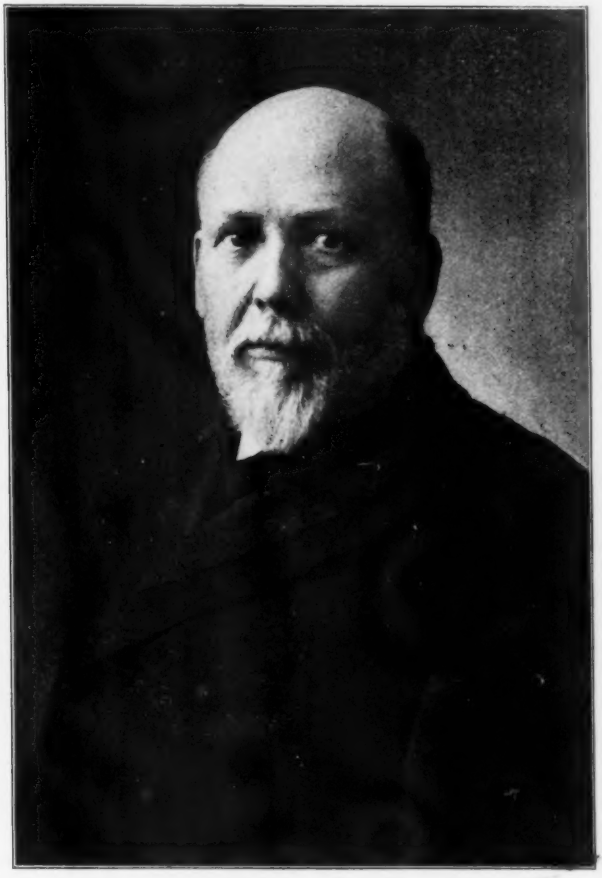
On the Republican side the leadership and responsibility were divided to an unusual extent. Ex-Congressman Henry M. Baker of Bow, whose long and honorable political record was duly recognized by his appointment as chairman of the House judiciary committee, and James E. French of Moultonborough, the long-time head of the railroad committee, promoted at this session to the chairmanship of appropriations, were in disgreement during most of the session; William F. Nason of Dover, whose choice as chairman of the House Republican caucus would have entitled him by precedent to a certain degree of leadership, did not choose to assume it, but William F. Whitcher of Haverhill, who enjoyed the distinction of serving for a fourth consecutive term as a member of the judiciary committee, as frequently essayed the function of leadership as any majority member.

Hon. John Scammon,
President of the Senate

But, if acknowledged leaders were somewhat lacking, the rank and file of the House membership averaged the best in years and an unusual number of young men, new men, men of promise, received their initiation into business under the dome. The City of

Concord contributed several of these and had on the whole a splendid representation in the Legislature. The town of Milford sent three men who would be a credit to any legislative body anywhere. And instances like this could be multiplied.

The Legislature was in session for fourteen weeks, the longest active life of any General Court since that of 1891, which was in session exactly the same length of time. It passed 293 acts and resolves, including both public and private legislation, and killed something more than the same number of proposed acts and joint resolutions. Its special appropriations aggregated half a million dollars, and it refused propositions for the expenditure of three or four times that amount.



Hon. Henry M. Baker.

Chairman of the Judiciary Committee

Early in its session the House of Representatives directed its committee on retrenchment and reform to investigate the various state offices, bureaus and departments, and it named a

special committee to study the workings of the license law and its administration by the state license commission.

The latter committee, after a few hearings, reported that it had no changes to recommend in the law or its execution, but the committee on retrenchment and reform had an opposite experience, and in a lengthy report, recommended many possible and desirable economies in expenditure and improvements in service. These recommendations it embodied in bills, and it is to be regretted that so few of them succeeded in becoming laws.

Some genuine progress was made, however, on broader lines of reform. A state transportation contract was substituted for the long-standing legislative and official free railroad pass, and a law was enacted which it would seem will largely do away with the barter and sale in "proxies" at political conventions. The scope of the caucus law was somewhat extended, and a direct primary proposal was beaten in the House by only eight votes, indicating that the people are getting waked up on this line.

A pure food law, in line with the national statute, was enacted, the manufacture and sale of adulterated ice cream was prohibited and sanitary regulations for barber shops were laid down.

While franchise taxation and a direct inheritance tax were turned down, the collateral inheritance law was perfected and express companies and dining, sleeping and parlor cars were taxed.

William J. Ahern.
Member of Appropriations Committee

A good deal of proposed labor legislation was killed, but the long fought

William F. Whitcher,
Member of Judiciary Committee

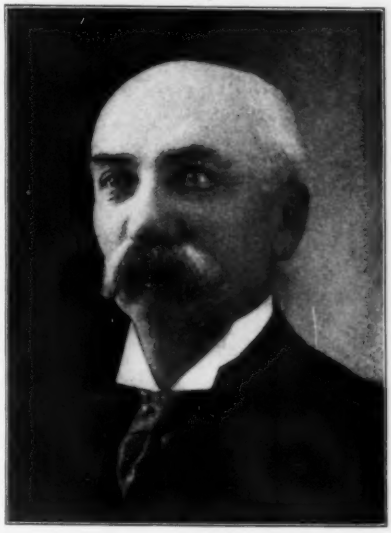
for 58-hour law was finally enacted. Few were chosen for passage out of the mass of insurance bills submitted, and the same may be said of the proposals for the amendment of the license law. Some desirable amendments were made to the good roads law, and a state highway from Nashua to Laconia up the Merrimack valley was authorized.

While it failed to build a new state house, to establish a new normal school or to erect a statue to Franklin Pierce, the Legislature was fairly generous in its treatment of the educational and charitable interests of the state, and showed commendable public spirit in its appropriations to combat the moth plagues, for the representation of New Hampshire at the Jamestown Exposition, and for a silver service to be presented to the battleship *New Hampshire* now building.

During the recent session there was no more influential member of the upper branch than Hon. George H. Saltmarsh, senator from the fourth district. As chairman of the committee on railroads, he has been in charge of a number of important measures, while he has also served as chairman of the committee on state hospital, and as a member of the committees on banks and public improvements.

Senator Saltmarsh is a native of Gilford, where he was born, March 3, 1859. His preparatory education was obtained at the New Hampton Literary Institution, which has probably prepared more New Hampshire men of prominence for their life-work than any similar institution in the state. From New Hampton he went to Dartmouth Medical College, from which institution he received the degree of M. D. in 1883. Since that time he has practised his profession in Lakeport, where he has built up an extensive and lucrative practice.

In politics, Senator Saltmarsh is a



Hon. George H. Saltmarsh,
Senator, District No. 4

Republican, and he has served his party in many important positions.

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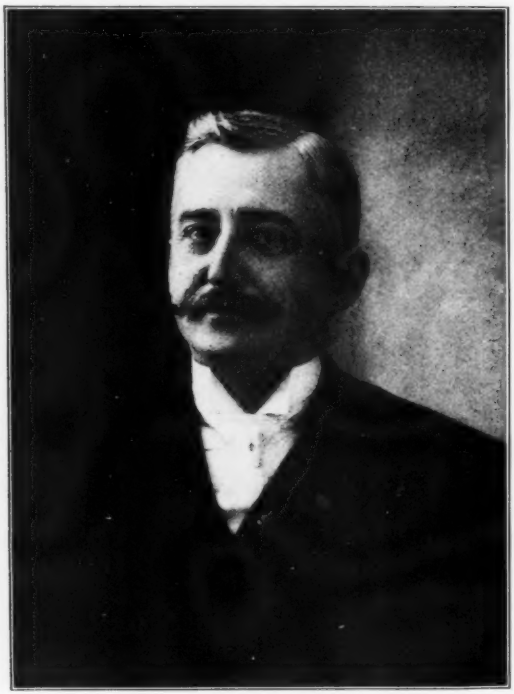
Although not a seeker after public office he had been called upon previously to represent his ward in the Legislature of 1895–'96, and has for some time served as city physician of Laconia. At the last election he was nominated for senator by his party and won out at the polls by the largest majority given a candidate for senator in the state.



Hon. Herbert O. Hadley.
Senator, District No. 15

Senator Saltmarsh is an Odd Fellow, a Knight of Pythias, a member of the New Hampshire Medical Society, of the American Medical Association and a number of other organizations.

The Grange in New Hampshire has become a power in public affairs during the past twenty years, although not a political organization in any partisan sense. This has been accomplished by the untiring efforts of such men as Hon. Herbert O. Hadley of Peterborough, senator from the fifteenth district. Mr. Hadley has been for thirty years a member of the organization and has served as master of Miller Grange of Temple, master of Hillsborough County Pomona, six years as assistant steward, two years as overseer, and three years as master of the State Grange, which latter position he now holds.

In the Senate he was accorded the unusual distinction, for a minority member, of an appointment to the chairmanship of an important committee — that of agriculture — for which position he was eminently well qualified, and in which he rendered valuable service, besides serving on

several other important committees. He was complimented by his party associates in the Senate with the nomination for president, and was frequently called to the chair during the session.

Senator Hadley is a Democrat. His personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens is evidenced by the fact that he is now representing a district normally Republican by a majority of 800. He has previously been successful at the polls, having been elected for three successive terms as a member of the board of selectmen of Temple, receiving every vote cast each time. In 1895 he was elected to the House and in 1902 he served as a member of the Constitutional Convention. For many years he has represented his county on the board of agriculture.

Senator Hadley was born in Peterborough, November 20, 1855. His education was obtained in the public schools at Sharon and Temple. For many years he was an extensive farmer in the latter town, but during the past two years he has resided in Peterborough and has devoted his attention to auctioneering when not engaged in Grange work.

Besides the Grange he has affiliated himself with the Masons and the Odd Fellows. His religious connections are with the Congregationalists.

Senator Hadley is married and has one daughter.

Oliver H. Toothaker, Republican representative from ward 1, Berlin, is a native of the state of Maine, born in the town of Harpswell in 1877. He was educated in the town schools of Harpswell and Brunswick, the Latin School and Bates College at Lewiston, being graduated from the latter in the class of 1898. During his school and college course he was engaged from time to time in teaching and newspaper work and his first year out of college was spent in the same lines.

Mr. Toothaker came to New Hampshire in 1899, becoming principal of the Antrim High School, where he remained for three years. In 1902 he went to Berlin and bought the *Berlin Reporter*, of which he became editor and proprietor. Since that time he has bought two other printing offices in the "Paper City" and combined them all so that he now has one of the best equipped plants of its kind in the state.

In Berlin he has been much interested in municipal affairs and has

Oliver H. Toothaker,
Chairman Committee on Normal School

been for three years a member of the board of education. Last fall he was made a member of the Republican state committee.

He is a member of Sabatis Lodge of Masons and the Royal Arcanum. His church affiliation is with the Presbyterians.

In the present House Mr. Toothaker is chairman of the committee on normal school and also a member of the joint committee on engrossed bills. He has been recognized as one of the "North Country's" most influential

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members and, while not particularly active on the floor, when he has spoken his remarks have been clean-cut and to the point. He has been especially interested in educational and labor measures.

Charles S. Emerson, representative from Milford, was born in that town on April 2, 1866. He was educated in the public schools of Milford, later attended Cushing Academy at Ashburnham, Mass., and afterwards taught school for a brief period. He is now a member of the firm of Emerson & Son, dealers in house furnishing goods, in his native town. Although his mercantile connections have taken much of his time, he has still been enabled to interest himself in banking, being at the present time vice-president of the Granite Savings Bank and the Milford Building and Loan Association.

In politics Mr. Emerson is a staunch Republican and has been repeatedly honored by election to various town offices, having served as auditor, supervisor of check lists, moderator of the school district, and also on the board of water commissioners.

Charles S. Emerson,

Chairman Committee on Public Improvements

At the last election he was elected a member of the Legislature by a large majority, and has served as chairman of the committee on public improvements and as a member of the special committee on Journal of the House. During the session he has taken an active part in the consideration of many important measures on the floor of the House, and has been repeatedly called to the chair by Speaker Ellis,

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where he has presided in a most efficient manner.

Mr. Emerson is one of the most prominent Odd Fellows in the state. On February 20, 1888, he became a member of Custos Morum Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Milford, and soon passed all the chairs in that body. Six years later, after having served as district deputy grand master, he was elected grand master of the grand lodge of the state, an office which he filled with much credit to himself and great benefit to the organization. He is also a member and past chief patriarch of Prospect Hill Encampment and of Custos Morum Rebekah Lodge, both of Milford, and Canton A of Nashua.

Mr. Emerson was selected to second the nomination of Senator Henry E. Burnham in the Republican caucus and acquitted himself with credit upon that as well as on all other occasions.

By an amendment to the state constitution recommended by the Constitutional Convention of 1902 and adopted the following year by the people, many new avenues of public revenue were opened up. The state has since that time been extremely lax in availing itself of its opportunity, but during the recent session the subject was taken up with much energy by the committee on ways and means of which Joseph S. Matthews, representative from ward 4, Concord, was chairman. This com-

Joseph S. Matthews,
Chairman Committee on Ways and Means

mittee was confronted with many difficult problems, such as are always presented when any constructive legislation is to be enacted. But Mr. Matthews has made an extensive study of the subject and has become thoroughly conversant with the methods of taxation in this and other states, and his knowledge proved invaluable in the work of the committee and upon the floor of the House. It is largely due to him that the bills for the taxation of express companies and of parlor, dining and sleeping cars, and the bill providing for the appointment of a commission to be appointed by the governor during the present year to make an investigation into the entire system of taxation and recommend to the next Legislature such changes as is deemed to be for the public good, have become laws.

Mr. Matthews is a native of Franklin, where he was born December 21, 1861. He was educated in the Franklin High School, from which he graduated in 1879, and at Dartmouth College, from which institution he received the degree of A. B. with the class of 1884. He is an attorney at law in practice in the Capital City, where he has built up an extensive and lucrative business. That he enjoys the confidence of his associates is evidenced not only by the fact that he has held many positions in political life, but by the fact that he has settled many large estates and is now trustee of several.

Mr. Matthews is a Republican in politics and has served two terms in the Concord Board of Aldermen. He was at one time a non-commissioned officer in the New Hampshire National Guard on the staff of Col. True Sanborn. At the present time he is employed as a special attorney for the state in all litigation growing out of the inheritance tax, and to assist the state treasurer in its collection.

He is a member of the Wonolancet Club, Concord, and the New Hampshire Club, Boston.

Hon. Ezra O. Pinkham was one of the six Democrats to be elected to the Senate at the last election, his district being the twenty-third, in which the contest is always a close one. His election comes as a particular distinction inasmuch as he is new in public office, having never before held any important political position.

Senator Pinkham was born in Dover, in which city he now resides, May 21, 1869. He was educated in that city, graduating from the Dover High School in 1888. Like eighteen out of the twenty-four members of the Senate, he is a Mason, having been for a number of years a member of Moses Paul Lodge, A. F. and A. M. of Dover. He is also a member of Alpha Council, Royal Arcanum of Portsmouth,

Hon. Ezra O. Pinkham,
Senator, District No. 23

Piscataqua Grange, P. of H., of Newington, Mercedes Aerie, F. O. E., of Portsmouth, and of the Albuquerque Club at Dover.

Senator Pinkham is an experienced accountant, having served a number of firms as bookkeeper. He is a Unitarian in religious belief; is married and has five children.

During the session, Senator Pinkham has served upon the committees on banks, towns and parishes, elections and fisheries and game.

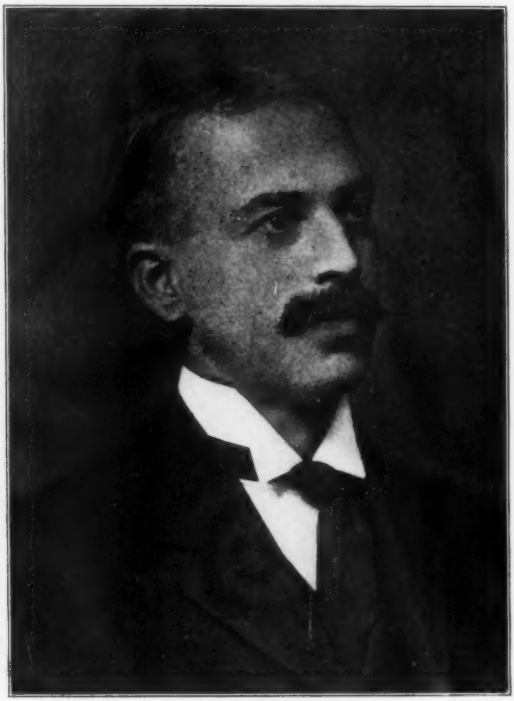
One of the most influential members of the House was Prof. James A. Tufts of Exeter, chairman of the committee on education. This is Professor Tufts's second term in the Legislature, and while his work during the session of 1905 was of a high order, his efficiency has increased with experience so that it can now be said that along lines in which he interested himself, no other man exerted a greater or more wholesome influence than he.

Prof. James A. Tufts,
Chairman Committee on Education

Professor Tufts is a native of the town of Alstead, where he was born April 26, 1855, and where his early education was obtained. He prepared for college at Phillips Exeter Academy, and later was graduated from Harvard University. He has for many years been connected with the former institution as professor of English. His duties as a member of the faculty of Phillips Exeter have been arduous, yet he has been able to find time to devote much attention to other matters. He is a valuable member of the American Dialect Society, the Modern Language Association of America, and the American Philological Association, in all of which he has exerted the same power as in the halls of legislation. A Unitarian in religious belief, he has associated himself with the American Unitarian Association.

Professor Tufts is a Republican in

politics, and although interested in the civic betterment of the community, he has never sought political preferment, and his election as a member of the House of 1905 and the present House of 1907 was a distinct tribute to his good citizenship and not to his partisanship. He has held a number of semi-public positions, such as trustee of the Exeter public library, trustee of Robinson Female Seminary, and treasurer of the Exeter Unitarian Church. He is now secretary of the Association of New England Alumni of Phillips Exeter Academy.



Fred T. Wadleigh.
Member of Committee on Revision of Statutes

None of the younger members of the lower house has made for himself a better reputation in the halls of legislation than has Fred T. Wadleigh of Milford. In the modern Legislature, committee work is oftentimes regarded as much more essential than that upon the floor, and Mr. Wadleigh's service as clerk of the committee on revision of statutes was efficient and painstaking. But he will be remembered by his associates more on account of his eloquent and effective participation in debate. He has gained the reputation of being one of the most ready debaters in recent legislatures.

Mr. Wadleigh comes of old New Hampshire stock, his mother being the daughter of the late Rev. J. D. Tilton, at one time settled in Milford. His paternal great-grandfather, James Wadleigh, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, being present at the surrender of General Burgoyne

at Saratoga. After the war had closed, he became one of the earliest settlers in the town of Sanbornton, and the family resided there for more than a century. It was in that town, upon the ancestral homestead, that Mr. Wadleigh was born on November 2, 1870. When a young man, he entered the New Hampton Literary Institution, and was graduated in the class of 1891 as valedictorian. He first engaged in teaching, but business life seeming more congenial, he entered the Ober Clothing House at Milford, and for nearly fifteen years has continued with the same firm. In politics, Mr. Wadleigh is a Republican, and has during the session made a reputation for devotion to the principles of that party as enunciated in their platform. He introduced early in the session a bill providing for a direct primary law in the state and although this bill was a radical change from the present caucus system, it came within a few votes of passage in the House. He has served the town of Milford as a member of the board of water commissioners for three years, being chairman of the board last year, and at the last election received the largest vote of any candidate upon the ticket in his town.

He is a member of Custos Morum Lodge, I. O. O. F., and of the First Baptist Church.

Hon. Charles Gale Shedd.
Senator, District No. 13

The Senate has had a most efficient and able worker in Hon. Charles Gale Shedd of Keene, who represented the thirteenth district. At the opening of the session, Senator Shedd was

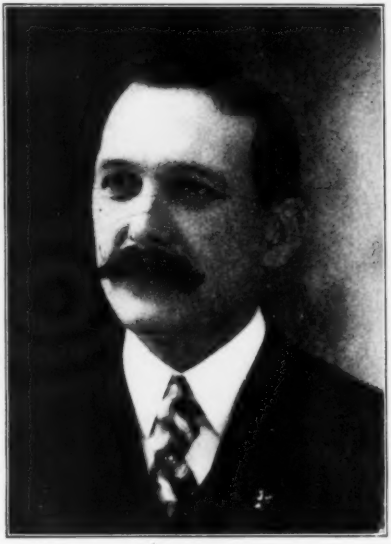
elected temporary chairman and presided with such grace, dignity, fairness and efficiency that he has been repeatedly called to the chair by President Scammon to preside during the consideration of important measures and was elected president *pro tem,* at the time President Scammon became acting governor during the absence from the state of Governor Floyd. Senator Shedd has also done faithful work as chairman of the committee on public health and a member of the committees on judiciary, on claims, on elections and on state hospital.

Senator Shedd was born in South Wallingford, Vt., May 18, 1865. He was educated in the public schools of Keene, to which city he removed in early life with his parents. He was graduated from the high school in 1881.

In politics he has been active for a great many years, contributing to whatever movement has seemed to be for the benefit of the Republican party. He has been honored by an election to the lower House, representing ward 1, and has held numerous city offices. Always popular among his associates, he has become a member of a large number of organizations, and in each of these he has been honored by elevation to the most important positions whenever his time would allow.

His secret society connections are mainly with the Masonic order, in which he has received every degree ever conferred, being a member of Special Friends Lodge, F. and A. M., Cheshire Royal Arch Chapter, St. John's Council and Hugh DePayens Commandery of Keene, Edward A. Raymond Consistory of Nashua and Bektash Temple of the Mystic Shrine, Concord, and a year ago received the coveted thirty-third degree in the northern Masonic jurisdiction. At the present time he is serving as grand king of the grand chapter, R. A. M., of New Hampshire. He is a member of several patriotic organizations, including the New Hampshire Society, Sons of the American Revolution, of which he is now president, and the Sons of Veterans. Being liberal in all his opinions, he has been attracted to the Unitarian Church.

The conservative people of New Hampshire have seldom made such a radical change in political alignment as occurred in the sixth senatorial district at the last election, which resulted in the triumphant election of Charles O. Downing, Democrat, over



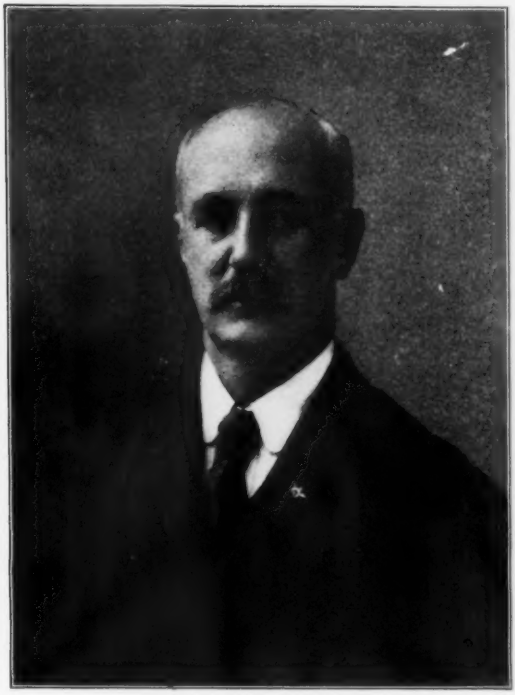
Hon. Charles O. Downing.
Senator, District No. 6

Joseph F. Smith, for many years one of the most powerful factors in Belknap County politics. In the previous election, Hon. Frederick A. Holmes, Republican, was elected by a majority of 946. At the last election, Senator Downing went into the position by a plurality of 332 votes.

This almost unprecedented record came not only as the result of Mr. Downing's popularity, but of the unbounded confidence in his honesty and integrity which is shared by political friend and foeman alike. He has

previously held important offices, having been elected to the Laconia city council and to the House of Representatives of 1905.

Senator Downing was born in Wentworth, May 15, 1866, where he received his education in the common schools. For nearly twenty years he has been a salesman for Denis O'Shea, proprietor of a leading department store of Laconia. He is a Mason and an Elk, and a member of the A. O. U. W. He was married June 14, 1893, to Miss Gertie Whipple Somes, a granddaughter of the late Col. Thomas J. Whipple. They have one daughter.



Alvin B. Cross.
Chairman Committee on Banks

The remarkable confidence in which the banks of New Hampshire are held by the people is due not only to the conservative men of integrity who preside over these institutions, but to the wisdom of our legislators in framing laws, rendering them sound and substantial. Among the men who have exerted a broad influence in both respects, Alvin B. Cross of Concord, chairman of the committee on banks, holds a prominent place. The appointment of Mr. Cross was certainly a wise one, for both by experience and natural aptitude he is able to view in the proper light proposed legislation, passing by that which would result in weakening the standing of the banks themselves on the one hand and accepting such wise provisions as will strengthen them on the other. During the session many important changes in the banking laws were suggested, and it is a tribute to the legislative ability of Mr. Cross that so wisely were these propositions han-

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dled, that not a murmur of dissatisfaction is heard from any legitimate source.

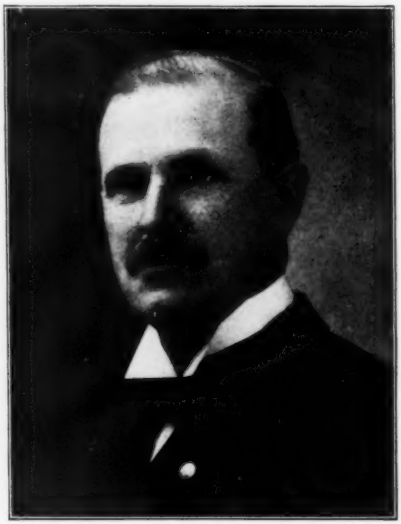
Mr. Cross was born in the neighboring town of Wilmot, July 4, 1858. The foundation for his education was laid in the common schools of that town and in the local academy, supplemented by a thorough training under a private tutor. When but twenty-one years of age, although the town was strongly Democratic and he a Republican, he was chosen superintendent of schools.

From early life he has been interested in financial affairs, devoting particular attention to banking. For many years he was connected with the National State Capital Bank of Concord, retiring to accept a position with A. B. Leach & Co., New York, bankers and dealers in investment securities. His territory includes the states of New Hampshire and Vermont, and during the time which he has been connected with this company, he has by virtue of the great confidence placed in his judgment and integrity, built up a large and prosperous business. He is also a trustee of the John H. Pearson fund and of the Franklin Evans and other large estates, handling in this connection many hundred thousands of dollars annually. He is also president of the Concord Building and Loan Association, which has the distinction of being the largest institution of its kind in the state of New Hampshire, a director in the Mount Washington Railroad Co., and treasurer of the N. H. Home Missionary Society, in which he takes much interest.

Mr. Cross is a Mason of the Knight Templar degree and also belongs to the Mystic Shrine.

Walter M. Lang, representative from ward 3, Manchester, and chairman of the committee on insurance, in the House of Representatives, was born in Canada, January 20, 1867, and educated at the Magog Academy and Normal School. Since coming to the states, he has interested himself in life insurance, becoming one of the most prominent life insurance men of New Hampshire. He is now state manager for the Prudential Insurance Co. of America, being in full charge of the immense business which that company is carrying on here.

Mr. Lang is a Republican in politics and has served as a member of the Manchester city council. His appointment to the chairmanship of the committee on insurance by Speaker Ellis was a deserved tribute to his ability and wide knowledge of insurance matters.



Walter M. Lang.
Chairman Committee on Insurance

Mr. Lang is a member of all branches of the Order of Odd Fellows and is at present serving as district deputy grand master for district No. 8, the largest in the state. He is also a Patron of Husbandry and a member of the Calumet Club of Manchester.

Mr. Lang is a Christian Scientist in religious belief; is married and has one child.

Speaker Ellis made an excellent choice when he selected Hon. Robert Perkins Bass, representative from Peterborough, for chairman of the committee on retrenchment and reform. The important matters which have from time to time come to the attention of this committee have been such that no one could have properly handled them who was not conversant with public affairs and willing to devote much time to their consideration. All of these matters, including the investigation into the conduct of state departments, have been handled by this committee in an impartial manner, and the exhaustive reports furnish material for reforms that must be of great benefit to the state. Upon the floor of the House, Mr. Bass has defended the position of his committee in a number of speeches, and already his work is bearing the fruit of his faithful labors.

Robert P. Bass,

Chairman Committee on Retrenchment and Reform

Mr. Bass was born in Chicago, September 1, 1873, and contrary to the mandate of Horace Greeley, came East instead of following the course of the setting sun. He was fitted for college in the schools of Boston, and was graduated from Harvard University in 1896. He afterward studied for a year in the Harvard Graduate School and attended the Harvard Law School. The illness of his father made it necessary for him to forego practice of his profession, and for some time he was in charge of his father's business in Chicago. He is now a resident of Peterborough,

where he resides with his mother, and operates the farm which the family purchased in 1888.

In politics he is a Republican and was elected to the Legislature of 1905, being prevented from attending on account of illness. He was re-elected at the last election. Mr. Bass has for many years been interested in practical forestry, and in October, 1906, was appointed by Governor McLane a member of the board of forestry commissioners, which position he still holds.

Hon. Fred N. Marden.
Senator, District No. 10

The tenth senatorial district, made up of wards 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9 of the City of Concord, was represented this year, for the first time in its history, by a Democrat, in the person of Hon. Fred N. Marden of ward 9. Mr. Marden is a native of the town of Chichester, born July 10, 1865. He was reared on a farm, and educated in the public schools and at Penacook Academy, paying his own way through three years' attendance at the latter. At the age of nineteen he went to Minnesota, where he attended the state normal school at Winona for a time, subsequently taught school, and later engaged in the shoe business in Wisconsin, representing a Milwaukee firm at Madison. Returning East, he located in Concord in 1890, where he has since resided and been actively engaged in the shoe trade, for some years past a member of the firm of Marden & Drake.

Mr. Marden has been an active worker in the Democratic ranks and has held the office of moderator in ward 9 since the ward was organized. He has been three times his party's

candidate for sheriff of Merrimack County, coming close to an election in 1902 and always running far ahead of his ticket. His great personal popularity was strikingly demonstrated by his election last November to the Senate by ninety majority over the ablest Republican in the district, Hon. Samuel C. Eastman, though his majority in the vote for sheriff in the same wards in 1902 was about the same.

He took an active part in the deliberations of the Senate, serving upon the committees on state prison, industrial school, incorporations, revision of the laws, fisheries and game and the joint committee on state house and state house park. He was several times called to the chair, demonstrating much aptness as a presiding officer. He takes special pride in the fact that he stood squarely by his convictions to the last in the celebrated Spaulding, Jones charter contest and gave the measure his hearty support. He was also a member of one of the two conference committees appointed during the session.

Mr. Marden is affiliated with numerous fraternal organizations, including the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Red Men, Patrons of Husbandry and various others. He is married and has two children, a son and a daughter.

Hon. Hamilton T. Howe.
Senator, District No. 3

For the past twenty years few citizens of Grafton County have been better known than Hon. Hamilton T. Howe, member of the Senate from dis-

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trict number 3. He has held public office for many years, making a record for efficiency in every position. For the past fourteen years he has been a deputy sheriff and for ten years served his town as moderator. He has had two terms in the lower house of the Legislature, the first in 1901. During the session of 1903 he was chairman of the committee on School for the Feeble-Minded and developed a wide influence in legislative matters. At the last election he was elected to the Senate by a large majority after a warm contest, and has served as chairman of the committee on elections and as a member of the committees on revision of laws, on labor, on roads, bridges and canals and state prison and industrial school.

Senator Howe is one of the many prominent men in New Hampshire who have been contributed to our state by our sister commonwealth of Vermont, having been born at Thetford, in the latter state, April 29, 1849. His education was obtained in the public schools of his native town. Many years ago he came to Hanover and has since been a prominent factor in the business affairs of the town. For a long time he conducted the Wheelock Hotel, connected with Dartmouth College, and was known as the Hanover Inn. As proprietor of the H. T. Howe Coach, Livery and Transfer Co., he has carried on the most extensive livery business in the state and has acquired a reputation for courtesy wherever Dartmouth College students have gone. Although busily engaged in the management of this business, he has developed the Grassland stock farm, one of the finest in the state.

Senator Howe is a Republican, and has always given his party his individual support. For twelve years he was president of the Hanover Republican Club and has been largely responsible for the big Republican majorities given by the town without exception to the state and county tickets of that party.

There was no more hard-working or painstaking member of the House than William S. Pierce, representative from ward 2, Dover. During the entire session, Mr. Pierce was a valuable addition to the membership, both in committee and upon the floor of the House. During the debates upon such important matters as the taxation of railroads and the abolition of the free pass, he showed a broad knowledge of public affairs and a devotion to the public welfare commendable in the extreme. In his speech upon railroad taxation especially, he showed himself to be a master of the entire situation and carried great influence with the House.

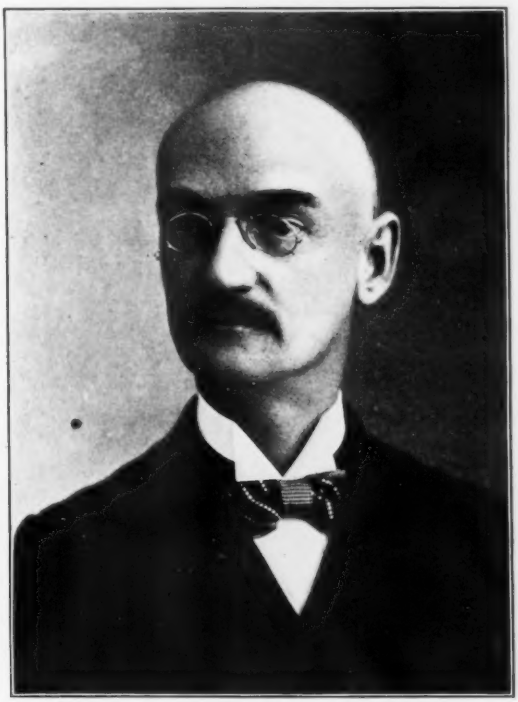
William S. Pierce.
Chairman Committee on Elections

Mr. Pierce is a native of the neighboring state of Maine having been born at Highland, June 15, 1852. He was educated at the Eaton School in Norridgewock, at the Maine Central Institute, Pittsfield, and at the State Normal School at Farmington. For some years after he had completed his education, he followed the profession of teaching. He then turned his attention to the study of law and

was admitted to the New Hampshire bar. Since that time he has been a successful practitioner in Somersworth and in Dover. His practice in the latter city since he located there has grown by leaps and bounds until he now has a large clientage throughout the county and conducts some of the most important litigation in his section of the state.

In politics Mr. Pierce is a Republican and has held many positions of trust. Before coming to New Hampshire he was a member of the board of education at Smithfield, Me. For many years he was moderator in his ward at Somersworth. Mr. Pierce is a Mason, being a member of the lodge, chapter and council. He is also a Knight of Pythias. He is married and has one child.

While the town of Milford sent two new members to the Legislature of 1907, who made exceptionally fine records, she wisely retained the services for another term of one of the most conscientious and efficient members of the last House in the person of George A. Worcester, who served in 1905, as during the present year, as chairman of the committee on forestry, dealing with an interest by the way to which he has given much thought and attention.



George A. Worcester.
Chairman Committee on Forestry

Mr. Worcester is a native of the town of Greenfield, born June 5, 1852, and educated in the public schools. In early youth he entered the employ of David Heald, an extensive furniture manufacturer of Milford and continued for a quarter of a century till 1890. In recent

years he has devoted his attention to insurance and real estate. He has always taken a strong interest in public affairs, has been for ten years a member of the board of selectmen, was a promoter of the Milford Improvement Society, of which he is secretary, and is also vice-president of the Milford Building and Loan Association, special justice of the police court and a trustee of the public library. He has always been strongly interested in historical matters, was one of the prime movers in the work of publishing the Milford town history and contributed largely to its success. He is a member of the New Hampshire Historical Society, of the Milford Historical and Genealogical Society and of the New Hampshire Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Politically he is a Republican and in religion is a Baptist, having been clerk of the Milford Baptist Association for the last tewnty years, and was for two years president of the New Hampshire Baptist conventions.

Mr. Worcester was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1902 and gave to the work of that body, as to that of the two legislative terms during which he has represented the town of Milford in part, the most faithful and diligent service, very few members having been as constant in attendance or attentive to the business in hand.

Hon. Frank S. Lord.
Senator, District No. 5

Among the most prominent citizens of Carroll County during the last two decades has been Hon. Frank S. Lord, senator from the fifth district. Born in the county, at Ossipee, where he still resides, April 18, 1858, he has

held his residence there continuously. Senator Lord is well educated both in the knowledge that is obtained in books and in the more valuable school of experience in business affairs, having attended the New Hampton Literary Institution and later studied at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

In politics Senator Lord is a Republican and has been repeatedly honored by his party. In his native town of Ossipee he has served in all the important offices. The county has thrice honored him with an election to the board of commissioners, where he has made a reputation for honesty, sagacity and devoted attention to the public welfare. He was postmaster at Ossipee under the administrations of Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt.

Senator Lord is a civil engineer and is extensively interested in the manufacture and marketing of lumber. He is a member of Saco Valley Lodge of Odd Fellows. In Masonry he has received all the degrees in the York rite, being a member of St. Paul Commandery. Liberal in his religious views as in all other affairs of life, he has been most attracted by the belief of the Unitarian Church.

During the present session of the Legislature Senator Lord has been an indefatigable member. Not a bill has come before the various committees of which he is a member which has not received his careful attention. This is saying much when it is known that he is chairman of the committee on public improvements, clerk of the judiciary committee, the most important in the Senate, and a member of the committees on agriculture, education and forestry.

The ranks of the veterans of the Civil War are fast thinning out, but many of those remaining are still active in public affairs. Among them is Hon. David R. Roys of Claremont, who represented the seventh district in the state Senate. In 1861, almost at the very inception of the war, although he was then eighteen years of age, he enlisted in Company G in the old "fighting Fifth" New Hampshire as a private. During the next three years he was with his regiment in all the important battles in which it was engaged, including the three days' fight at Gettysburg.

January 1, 1864, he again enlisted as a private and was finally mustered out June 28, 1865, after the war had closed.

Senator Roys was born in Claremont, March 3, 1843, and was educated there. He still resides in the

Hon. David R. Roys.
Senator, District No. 7

same town, although during his long and active career, his business connections have called him into nearly every section of the country. He is a mechanic by trade and is regarded as an expert in the management of mining machinery.

Politically, Senator Roys has always been Republican, and has served in a number of political positions previous to his election to the Senate. In 1899, he was a member of the House, and being re-elected in 1901, was made chairman of the committee

on military affairs. During the present session he has served as chairman of the committee on Soldiers' Home, and is a member of the committees on military affairs, on claims, on manufactures, and on public improvements. He is a prominent Mason, being a Knight Templar in the York rite and a member of Edward A. Raymond Consistory in the Scottish rite, as well as belonging to Mt. Sinai Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.

Charles J. O'Neil.
Member of Committee on Revision of Statutes

The Democratic party not only had the largest number of members for a number of years in the present session, but the personnel of that membership was far above the average. Among their number was Charles J. O'Neil and no man exerted a wider or stronger influence that he in shaping the policy of the party. Nor was his influence confined to the Democratic members. The Republicans followed him as well as the members from his own party. In the debates upon all classes of questions he took a very prominent part. His clear, concise and common sense presentation of his views was not excelled by that of any of his associates. He was particularly interested in labor legislation, standing for the best interests of the laboring classes in every case. Any matter affecting in the least his town, or section of the state, also received his closest attention. He served as a member of the important committee on revision of statutes, which had before it some of the most important measures introduced.

Mr. O'Neil was born in Keene, in 1861, and received a common school education in that city. He is now and has been for a long time a resi-

dent of the town of Walpole, where he is extensively engaged in the breeding of high class horses.

Although a Democrat in a town which is usually Republican, he has gained the confidence of his fellow citizens to such an extent that he has repeatedly been elected to public office. He has served on the board of education, on the board of health and has twice before, in 1891 and 1901, been a member of the House, and at each session made an enviable record. He has for a number of years been a member of the Democratic state committee. He is a Catholic and an Elk.

Harry T. Lord.
Member Judiciary Committee

Harry True Lord, representative from ward 4, Manchester, was born in that city, May 7, 1863. He was educated in its public schools, and upon graduation entered Dartmouth College, receiving his degree with the class of 1887. He soon after entered the office of Hon. David A. Taggart, where he read law and was admitted to practice in July, 1894. Since that time he has been in the practice of law in the Queen City. He was soon after elected to the lower branch of the Legislature and served throughout the session of 1895. He has been deeply interested in the welfare of his native city, as attested by the fact that in 1899, during his first term in the city council, he was elected president of the board and served for four years, retiring in 1902. During the same year, he was a member of the convention to revise the state constitution. At the last election he was again chosen to the Legislature, and has served as a member of the committee on judiciary and as

chairman of the Hillsborough County delegation.

During Mr. Lord's college course, he became a member of the famous Tri Kappa Society, and in his senior year was honored by an election to the Sphinx. In Masonry, he is a member of the Blue lodge, chapter, council, and of Trinity Commandery. He is also a Red Man and has been for some years secretary of the Calumet Club. He attends the Episcopal Church; is married, and has one daughter.

Among the most efficient members of the lower House during the present session was George H. Rolfe, representative from ward 5, Concord, and chairman of the Merrimack County delegation. Mr. Rolfe is a native of the Capital City, having been born there December 24, 1866. His early education was obtained in the city schools and at the Holderness School for Boys, from which he was graduated in the class of 1886.

For a number of years Mr. Rolfe was employed in the freight department of the Boston & Maine Railroad as cashier. Later, wishing to embark in business for himself, he purchased an interest in one of the largest plumbing and heating establishments in the state, the firm being Orr & Rolfe at the present time. Since he entered this line his firm has maintained a wide reputation for excellent work and square dealing, second to none, and has handled some of the largest contracts in its line in the state.

In politics Mr. Rolfe is a staunch

George H. Rolfe.
Chairman of the Merrimack County Delegation

Republican and has been successful at the polls whenever he has allowed his name to be used as a candidate for public office. In 1903 he was chosen a member of the city council and two years later was promoted to the board of aldermen, in both of which places he served with eminent satisfaction to his constituents.

In secret society circles Mr. Rolfe is a Mason, being a member of Eureka Lodge, No. 70, Trinity Chapter, Horace Chase Council, Mt. Horeb Commandery, all of Concord, and Edward A. Raymond Consistory of Nashua, as well as of Bektash Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. At the present time he is senior warden in his lodge and alchemist in the Shrine. He is also a member of the Wonolancet and Passaconaway clubs of Concord.

Fred Joe Pease

Member of Committee on Fisheries and Game

No other among the younger members of the House can point to a better record of achievement during the session than can Representative Fred Joe Pease of Holderness. Mr. Pease was a member of and clerk of the committee on fisheries and game. This committee has always been burdened with a large amount of work, and this is true of the present session to a greater extent, perhaps, than of any other session in recent years, as the entire fish and game laws were practically revised. But it will be on account of Mr. Pease's connection with the bill to provide for a tax upon the business of express companies that he will be most prominently remembered by his associates.

Mr. Pease is a thorough believer in the idea that the corporate interests of the state are not at the present

time paying their just proportion of the public taxes, and early in the session presented a bill for the consideration of his associates to assess the first excise tax ever levied in the state. So carefully was the bill prepared that the committee on ways and means, after due consideration and consultation with the state board of equalization, unanimously recommended it to the House, where it passed. It was later unanimously adopted in the Senate and received the signature of the governor. The law will add a substantial sum to the public revenues and will be borne by those who can most easily afford to bear it.

Mr. Pease was born in Rumney, March 11, 1876, and received a common school education. For some years he was engaged in various lines of work, teaching school for a short time, and later engaging in business both at Rumney and Ashland. During the past five years, he has been manager of the Mr. Livermore House at Holderness, one of the largest summer hostelries in the state. In politics Mr. Pease is a staunch Democrat, and it has been largely through his instrumentality that the Democrats in his town have gained the ascendency. He has previously held various public offices, including moderator of the town meeting for four years.

Mr. Pease is prominent in secret organizations, being a member of Mt. Livermore Grange at Holderness, Mt. Prospect Lodge No. 62, F. and A. M., Ashland, Passaconway Lodge No. 49, Knights of Pythias, Ashland, Enos Huckins Company No. 19, U. R., Plymouth, and of the Amoskeag Veterans of Manchester. He has been master of his grange, and is at the present time captain of Enos Huckins Company. Mr. Pease was married, October 20, 1897, to Miss Abby Jewell of Holderness, daughter of B. F. Jewell, for many years proprietor of the Mt. Livermore House.

Among the new members of the House the present session who exerted a wide influence and made a commendable effort in behalf of reform legislation was Frank A. Musgrove, representative from Hanover. Mr. Musgrove is comparatively new in politics, having made his entry into the political arena in the early stages of the last campaign. At that time he became convinced that radical changes were necessary in the management of public affairs. With the accomplishment of this in view he became one of the original thirteen Republicans who signed the request that Winston Churchill become a candidate for the gubernatorial nomination. During the ante-convention contest he took the stump and delivered a number of speeches in the interest of the reform cause and was a member of the Republican state convention which followed. His connections with the Churchill movement brought to him the nomination for member of the House and he was elected by the largest vote given any candidate on the ticket. During the session Mr. Musgrove championed a number of reform measures by introducing bills covering the subject and defending them in committee and in debate. He was a member of the railroad committee.

Mr. Musgrove was born in Bristol, July 19, 1872, being the son of former Senator Richard W. Musgrove, editor of the *Bristol Enterprise*. He was educated in the graded schools of that town, at the New Hampton Literary Institution, from which he was graduated in 1892, and at Dartmouth College, from which he received his degree in the class of 1897. During his school and college courses he was much interested in athletics and in newspaper work, the foundation of the latter having been laid in his father's printing office at Bristol. He was, during his senior year at college, editor-in-chief of *The Dartmouth*, and upon graduation immedi-

ately succeeded to the management of the *Hanover Gazette*. He has since built up the plant so it is now one of the best in New England outside of Boston.

The work of investigation into the conduct of state affairs conducted by the committee on retrenchment and reform has already proven to be a valuable acquisition in state affairs. Prominent upon this committee was Wilbur E. Webster, representative from Jaffrey. As a member of the sub-committee which did the active work of gathering information, writing the report, and presenting recommendations for reform in these departments, Mr. Webster showed a keen insight into everything pertaining to the business of the state, and although a new member in the halls of legislation, he took prominent part in defending upon the floor the propositions presented by the committee. He also did effective work as a member of the committee on fisheries and game, being called upon a number of times to act as chairman of that committee during the absence of the regular presiding officer.

Frank A. Musgrove.
Member of Committee on Railroads

Mr. Webster is a native of the town in which he now resides, having been born there March 21, 1877. He is now one of the youngest yet most prosperous business men of the town. He carries on an extensive retail coal business and is engaged in the manufacture and marketing of tacks and nails.

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He was educated in the local schools of his native town, at the Murdock School at Winchendon, Mass., and at Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College in Boston.

list and assistant engineer in the fire department. He is a trustee and auditor of the Monadnock Savings Bank. In secret society circles, Mr. Webster is also prominent, being a

Wilbur E. Webster.

Member of Committee on Retrenchment and Reform

Mr. Webster is a Republican in politics and has contributed extensively to the success of his party in the town. He has been previously honored by election to various offices, including auditor, supervisor of the check

member of Charity Lodge No. 18, F. and A. M., Monadnock Lodge No. 90, I. O. O. F., of Union Encampment of Peterborough, and Jaffrey Grange, P. of H. He is unmarried and attends the Congregational Church.

April

By Samuel Hoyt

Now April, smiling through her tears,
  Trips, radiant, down the Spring's highway
To herald with a loyal pride
  The coming of her sister, May.

The Ancient Township of Monson

By Charles S. Spaulding

[Read before the Hollis Woman's Club at the annual field day, August 31, 1906]

In the settlement of Monson, New Hampshire, the same conditions were confronting the pioneer settlers as did those of other New England towns. A wilderness of boundless expanse, with only the Souhegan rolling its dark waters between them and that vast primitive and unbroken forest of southern New Hampshire; their first employments, erecting log huts, making paths, subduing the forest, fighting wild men and wild beasts. Many of the early landmarks have disappeared. It is not easy to reproduce the scenes in which they planted their habitations. There was no leisure and little disposition to make records of their doings. The agitation of the state line boundary question helped to promote the early settlements in the region west of the Merrimack River. A bitter contest was maintained for the space of ten years, from 1731 to 1741, between the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Masonian proprietors of the New Hampshire grants in regard to establishing the state lines. This contention mainly grew out of the fact that the crowned heads of England were ignorant of the source and course of the Merrimack River, at the time these grants were made. They assumed the course of the river to be from east to west, because this was its course from Pawtucket Falls to the sea board, and thereby in accordance with this idea issued conflicting grants.

Each state in this strife wishing to obtain jurisdiction over as many townships as possible, having failed to agree upon a boundary line, employed counsel to lay the matter before his majesty's council, which was determined and settled by a decree of the king in council, bearing date August 5, 1740, the line westward from Pawtucket Falls being surveyed by Richard Hazen in March, 1741.

In the meantime every effort was made to induce people to migrate to the new country. Handbills were posted, setting forth the advantages of settling in this section. Some of these emigrants were of English descent, some were Irish, and some were descendants of those Scottish Presbyterians who fought at the siege of Londonderry and were the Lowlanders of Scotland, from whom sprang the Scotch-Irish of Ulster.

The ancient township of Monson was included within the boundary of Old Dunstable, embracing the northern portion of West Dunstable, and as chartered April 4, 1746, containing an area of about 17,000 acres, bounded on the north by Souhegan River, on the west by Dunstable old line, on the south by Hollis, and on the east by Muddy Brook, Pennechuck Pond and Merrimack, being about four miles wide and eight miles long.

Among the first permanent settlers of Monson was the Nevins family, whose emigrant ancestor, Thomas Nevins, a Scotchman by birth, sailed from the north of Ireland in 1711, and landing at some port in Nova Scotia, from there came to Massachusetts and later settled in Newton.

After a time Mr. Nevins took shipping to return to Ireland on business. The vessel in which he sailed was lost at sea and all on board perished. Subsequently his widow, Margaret Nevins, and her three sons, Thomas, David and William, came to West

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Dunstable, or Monson, and settled on land purchased of Col. Joseph Blanchard, as by deed dated July 27, 1735. The widow, Margaret Nevins, was taxed here until 1743; after that her name disappears from the records.

Another and probably the first permanent settler in the northern portion of West Dunstable, was Samuel Leeman, Sr., of Reading, Mass., who was a descendant of Samuel Leeman of Beadle, England, who migrated to this country in 1633, and settled in Charlestown, Mass. Mr. Leeman, Sr., came to Souhegan West in 1735, and helped to build the first meeting-house in Amherst. He removed to West Dunstable in the spring of 1737 and settled at the north part of Monson village place, as seen by the records. His daughter, Sarah, was the first white child born in Monson, December 5, 1737.

His grandson, Samuel Leeman, born in Hollis, August 7, 1749, enlisted into the Continental army, April 19, 1775, in Capt. Reuben Dow's company, for Concord and Lexington. He was at the battle of Bunker Hill. On April 7, 1777, he enlisted into Capt. Isaac Fry's company, regiment of Col. Alexander Scammell, as ensign; was with his regiment and participated in all those battles known as the Northern campaign, which caused the surrender of the entire British army under Gen. John Burgoyne. Mr. Leeman was killed at the battle of Saratoga, October, 1777. He was said to be of the tenth succeeding generation of Leemans, in which the oldest son was named Samuel.

Some of the other residents of that portion of Monson that is now Hollis were Philip Woolerich, Daniel Bailey, James Wheeler, John Martin, William Colburn, Thomas Wooley, Israel Mead, Samuel Stearns, Joseph Gould, Samuel Hayden, and David Wallingford, who was a son of Jonathan Wallingford of Bradford, Mass., born September 15, 1744, came to Monson in 1765, enlisted into the Continental army April 19, 1775, was at the battle of Bunker Hill, reënlisted in 1777 into the company of Capt. Archelaus Towns as lieutenant, and was under the command of General Stark at Bennington and one of the first who gave orders to his men to fire on the British and Hessians at the commencement of that bloody battle. He was also in the battles of Stillwater, Bemis Heights and Saratoga. After the war he was paid off in worthless Continental money. Shortly after he had the misfortune to lose his house by fire. He died in Hollis, March 12, 1791.

There were many elements of discord confined within the chartered limits of Monson, whose people had little to do about obtaining their charter. This was mainly brought about through the influence of Gov. Benning Wentworth, who had a mania for granting town charters. Then, again, the non-resident landholders were induced to favor incorporation as a means of enhancing their property. These influences were potent factors in establishing this township as well as many others in New Hampshire during the colonial period. A belligerent spirit was manifest in the southern portion of Monson, whose people for various reasons were opposed to being included within its chartered limits Consequently, when an effort was made to build a meeting-house and establish preaching, or otherwise to promote the welfare of the town, the proposition was invariably voted down; although on one or two occasions, at a special meeting, they voted to build and locate a meeting-house and appointed a committee to accomplish the work, but at the next annual meeting the project would be reconsidered. When it became apparent they would fail to get an act passed by the Colonial Court, taxing the non-resident proprietors for the purpose of building a meeting-house and establishing preaching, they became dis

couraged and began to clamor for a division of the town, and after several years of strife and discord petitioned the General Court to have the town divided equally between Hollis and Amherst, these towns having previously signified their consent to this arrangement; and, on April 9, 1770, at a special meeting, it was voted to divide the town as stated above, the governor and council granting their request under date of July 4, 1770. Thus, after a corporate existence of twenty-four years and three months Monson ceased to exist only in history. In many respects this quaint old town was the peer of any of her sister republics during those old colonial days.

Perhaps nowhere in this section were there more fertile fields, and in no part of the state was there better farming land than was found in the Souhegan Valley. Probably no town in New Hampshire furnished more soldiers for the French and Indian wars according to its population than did Monson. Then, again, no other town in New Hampshire could claim to be the native place of a parent of a chief executive of the United States, as could Monson, in the person of Anna Kendrick, the mother of President Franklin Pierce.

Waters Seek the Sea

By C. C. Lord

Sweet one, Thine is a thriving thought,
Of something blissful, yet unwrought
In time, yet still to be—
A stream is but a tiny rill,
Yet hastes a river's banks to fill,
For waters seek the sea.

A theme exults within thy breast—
A dream—the soul's diviner rest,
Fulfilling e'er for thee—
And eke the stream more gladly flows.
The river teems and larger grows,
As waters seek the sea.

A sacred light illumes thy face,
With radiance adorns thy grace,
Thou comest, love, to me—
And lo! the stream is deep and wide,
With joy the river meets the tide,
When waters seek the sea.

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An Historical Sketch from an Armchair

By Bert P. Doe

In about the year 1600, in England, a native of the country by the name of William Brewster, sits in an armchair with his home circle surrounding him. It is not a remarkable fact, for hundreds of men have done the same thing, nor is the chair one of striking appearance, or out of the ordinary appearance of the time. It is a good substantial chair, however, and when not in use, it sits in the best room of the house.

He sits, smokes and talks of the affairs of the day—of the king, of parliament and of his household affairs.

The years pass and affairs are such that he with a band of fellow men sail away from the coast of England for the unsettled land across the ocean. He leaves behind him the scenes and connections of his childhood, youth and manhood, but takes his household effects and his family. He is a devout worshipper of the Great Being, and in order that he may worship Him without being hampered by men, he joins the party and embarks for a land of freedom. He is, in the language of the time, a Pilgrim Father, a Puritan.

After the usual tossing and adverse winds on the ocean, the good ship, bearing the name of the *Mayflower*, sails into the sheltering part of what is now Massachusetts Bay. The Englishmen first touched the land on what they named Plymouth Rock, in the year 1620. History tells the rest—the hardship of a severe winter, the troublesome natives, the Indians, disease and death of many of the band, and the survival of only a few by the spring-time.

He spent many years in the new land and many a day of hardship, harassed by the natives of the land. Still the old armchair furnished him with many hours of pleasure and rest, and from its arms he often reflected upon his home land across the ocean. At last the time came for him to lay aside his earthly labors and pass to his reward.

The armchair at this time became the property of his son, who had grown to manhood in the new country. The younger Brewster cherished the chair, for it was the property of his father and there was always sentiment in it. Not a bit changed was the piece of furniture; perhaps somewhat scarred by changing about the home, still it was the same which rested the tired limbs of Elder Brewster. In those days of the sixteenth century, the chair was simply a part of the household effects, and not distinguished from the other pieces in any way. But the days of the dawning of the seventeenth century brought the chair past its century mark and made it quite a relic in the household of the Brewster family. Through the years of this century it still remained in possession of the same family, while change after change was wrought by the Old Man with the scythe. Children were born and grew to youth and manhood; the wedding bells pealed cheerily for many members of the family, while death crept in and took away at last its claim on the old. Changes in the country—the wars and the home affairs wrought never a change for the old chair.

By this time its history and sentiment was ever increasing, and its owner now was Daniel Brewster, a resident of Wolfeboro, N. H., and the chair rested in the happy homestead.

During these years the Brewsters were residents of the state where the chair now is owned. In 1843 it passed into another generation, when it became the property of George F. Brewster, the son of Daniel, a resident of Wolfeboro, among the New Hampshire lakes and mountains. In his peaceful homestead, a rare and fast aging relic it stood for three decades, and in 1874, it saw its good owner pass away from his earthly calling to join his kindred, its former owners who had lived when the country was in its infancy. Eli V. Brewster of Dover then cared for the old chair and told its history with pride. He at last was called away in 1903, and then it came by will into the happy homestead of I. S. Brewster of Dover to await the uncertain future, which is shrouded from man. There it stands, an ornament and part of the household goods. It is nothing but a curved armchair, but what thoughts and what sentiment it brings up if one but ponders a minute.

In antiquity it even surpasses historic Dover itself, for when the busy Cocheco city was nothing but a tract of woodland sheltering the roaming red men, the chair was probably resting the limbs of some brawny Anglo-Saxon in "Merry" England. Imagination alone can picture it on the other side of the Atlantic; its curving arms have embraced both young and old and rested arms of the feeble and aged. It has passed through many generations on this side and it takes but slight fancy to recall how the old have reclined before a glowing hearth clasped in its arms amid the blue wreaths from the pipe; how the good wife industriously plys the knitting needles to the noise and prattle of children at play; how, too, in its arms the young have dreamed of the future, of love, of fortune and fame. The youthful lover, the husbandman and the grandfather, the merry school girl, the housewife and grandmother have all reclined in its arms in reverie, in industry and pleasure.

It is certainly a rare old relic and deserves protection even for its sentiment alone. No modern maker can easily imitate it, for its material, which was nutured in the mother country, would be hard to find in our woodland tracts. The chair itself, though small, weighs almost like iron. Patience, too, can be traced from top to bottom in the handicraft, for there are few things which would lead to believe that the use of many tools were employed. Not the least trace of a nail can be found in the firm frame, while many an uneven cut about the arms would suggest the work of a jack-knife. Frescoed along the curving arms is the leaf of trees from England's forests, much in the likeness of the oak, but perhaps of the tree from which the material was hewed to shape it. It is not a high straight back chair, such as the style in the days of our grandparents, but small, with circling arms just sufficient for one to sit in a most comfortable position, much more so than the elegant chairs of modern days.

Although over three hundred years old, signs of age cannot be traced, nor is there a scar to suggest rough usage. Probably the best corner in the best room has always been preserved for it, and only on "state" occasions of late has it been in actual use. How highly it has been prized can be seen from the fact it was the only legacy left to its present owner, and he values it far more than a cash gift, and large must be the sum to take it from the Brewster line.

Now, as in the past days, it stands in the best room of a happy family homestead, where it will remain till it becomes the property of another, unless it comes to an untimely end. As an ornament it would not be out of place in any elegantly furnished home of the land. Its contrast with other furniture is not striking. At

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first sight it would not be distinguished from the chairs framed in the busy days of the century; but, look the second time, or if by chance one happens to sit in it, there is no such ease in the other chairs and those arms to it seem to be curved especially to your ease; and then imagination takes you back—way back to England, the *Mayflower* and colonial days. May it last for many years in the same happy homestead and pass down again, from generation to generation, awakening sentiment and imagination along the vista of the coming years.

Backward

By L. J. H. Frost

Backward through long departed years
  My lingering footsteps stray;
I hear the echo of the past
  Along the moss-grown way.

I crush dead flowers beneath my feet,
  Once they were sweet and fair,
But Time with his relentless hand
  Plucked them and cast them there.

And forms of dear loved friends I see
  And hear their voices too;
They call, they smile, they beckon me,
  Then vanish from my view.

Backward I wander all alone
  Through the deserted past;
And gloomy shadows cloud the way
  While day is waning fast.

But now a voice is whispering me
  "Think not of by-gone days—
But onward walk with patient step
  Through all life's devious ways.

"Thy Father's hand that leadeth thee
  Will guide thee unto rest,
Where peace that like a river flows
  Shall calm each troubled breast."

New Hampshire Necrology

THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH

Thomas Bailey Aldrich, born in Portsmouth, N. H., November 11, 1836, died in Boston, Mass., March 18, 1907.

He was the son of Elias Taft Aldrich, a native of Bangor, Me., and Sara Abba Bailey of Portsmouth, and was educated largely in the private school of Samuel Demeritt in Portsmouth. His father, who was engaged in business in New Orleans, where the family passed the winter seasons, died in the fall of 1850, and the idea of a college education, which had been entertained for him was abandoned, and at the age of seventeen he entered the counting-room of an uncle engaged in commercial life in New York. About this time his first published poem appeared in the columns of the *Portsmouth Journal*. His "Baby Bell," long prominent among the best efforts of American poetical writers, was written the next year, and was successively rejected by several of the leading magazines of the country, and finally made its first appearance in the columns of the *Journal of Commerce*. It was widely copied, however, and its merit secured the young writer a position as an editorial writer for the *New York Mirror*, and soon after as assistant editor of the *Home Journal*, of which the late Nathaniel P. Willis was editor-in-chief. From this time his position and progress in the literary world were assured. In 1865, immediately after his marriage to Miss Lillian Woodman, he removed to Boston and became the editor of *Every Saturday*, a weekly literary publication issued by Ticknor & Fields. In 1881, he succeeded his intimate friend, William Dean Howells, as editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, continuing till 1890, after which time he wrote only occasionally, "as the spirit moved." His last poem and last literary work of any kind was written for the Longfellow centennial, at Sanders' Theatre, Cambridge, February 27, last.

While Mr. Aldrich was undoubtedly the most famous poet of New Hampshire birth, his prose works hold a high place in American literature, "Marjorie Daw and Other Stories," and "The Story of a Bad Boy and the Little Violinist" being the more prominent among them. Mrs. Aldrich and one son, Talbot, survive.

WILLIAM A. PARSONS

William A. Parsons, born in Concord, N. H., February 4, 1822, died in Springfield, Mass., March 10, 1907.

He removed with his parents to Springfield when fourteen years of age, and at twenty-one commenced business for himself in the real estate line, to which he was devoted through his life, having done more, as is said by the press of that city, to build up and develop what is now one of the most beautiful cities in New England, than any other man.

September 20, 1848, Mr. Parsons united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Wood of Northampton, Mass., who survives him, with a daughter and two sons, the latter having been for some time associated with him in the real estate business.

JOSEPH T. S. LIBBEY

Joseph T. S. Libbey, long a prominent resident of Dover, died in that city, March 18, 1907. He was a native of Rochester, born October 31, 1832, the son of Paul and Elizabeth (Sherburne) Libbey and of the eighth generation from John Libbey, the first of the family in America. He learned the printer's trade in youth in the office of the *Dover Gazette*, subsequently worked at the same in Boston, and later, for many years, was foreman of the *Morning Star* office in Dover. He served in the First New Hampshire Heavy Artillery in the War of the Rebellion, and was promoted to second lieutenant. In 1868 he became one of the proprietors of the *Dover Enquirer*, continuing till 1886, when ill health compelled his retirement. He was the first commander of Charles W. Sawyer Post, G. A. R., of Dover, and was also prominent in Masonry and the Knights of Pythias, being a past grand chancellor of the state organization of the latter. He is survived by three married daughters.

HON. BENJAMIN F. PERKINS

Benjamin F. Perkins, born in Center Harbor, January 7, 1831, died in Bristol, March 18, 1907.

His early education was obtained in Holderness, now Ashland, and at sixteen years of age he went to Boston to learn the brickmakers' trade. At the age of twenty-five he made his home in New Hampton, where he continued for ten years, where he was for six years one of the selectmen, agent during the Civil War for the enlistment of soldiers, and also served two years in the state Legislature. In 1866 he removed to Bristol, where he ever after resided and where he was engaged in the manufacture of paper, latterly as a member of the Mason-Perkins Paper Company, of which he was for many years manager and treasurer. He held many responsible positions and was a member of the state Senate for the fourth district in 1883.

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Editor and Publisher's Notes

The fourteenth biennial session of the New Hampshire Legislature, which came to an end on Friday, April 5, was one of the longest held since the adoption of the biennial system; yet, while there may be a disposition in some quarters to condemn unduly the general outcome of the session's work, it is undoubtedly true that it hardly came up on the whole to the expectation of the people or the platform promises of the preceding political campaign. Whatever of real reform may have been accomplished as regards the matter of the legislative pass depends almost entirely upon the judgment or inclination of the governor, who, with the advice of the council, is authorized hereafter to contract with the railroads for the transportation of members of the Legislature during the time of its sessions. The nature of such contract is to determine whether or not any improvement is to be made upon the conditions that have heretofore prevailed. As a matter of fact, the Legislature seems to have evaded its duty in this regard and to have devolved the same upon the executive. One act of the Legislature, however, and by far the most important of the session, cannot fail to be productive of most beneficent results, and should command the hearty approbation of the people regardless of party. Reference is had to the measure regulating the election of delegates, and the organization and control of political conventions, which, by compelling the holding of caucuses for the choice of delegates and alternates by all parties simultaneously throughout the state, and by prohibiting the participation in conventions of any but duly elected delegates or alternates, prevents, in large measure, the packing of such caucuses in particular interests, and does away absolutely with the corrupt trading in "proxies," which has so frequently been resorted to in the past, greatly to the discredit of New Hampshire politics.

Reference has recently been made in these notes to a valuable contribution to the biographical history of the state in Dr. Granville P. Conn's "History of the New Hampshire Surgeons in the War of the Rebellion." Mention should not be omitted of another work of similar nature, appearing almost simultaneously, even more extended and comprehensive in its character, also from the pen of a Concord author. "The Native Ministry of New Hampshire," by Rev. N. F. Carter, is a large octavo volume of 1017 pages, embracing personal sketches of over twenty-five hundred New Hampshire born clergymen of different denominations, who have pursued their calling in this and other states and foreign lands. It is the result of more than thirty years of patient and careful labor, and is at once a monument to the industry and devotion of the author, and a tribute to a noble army of laborers in "the Master's vineyard," who have honored alike their native state and their high and chosen calling. No one interested in the history and biography of the state and in the work of New Hampshire men in all lines of worthy effort should be without a copy of this book. Especially should it be found in every public library in the state, since there is scarcely a town within its borders, some of whose sons are not included among its subjects.

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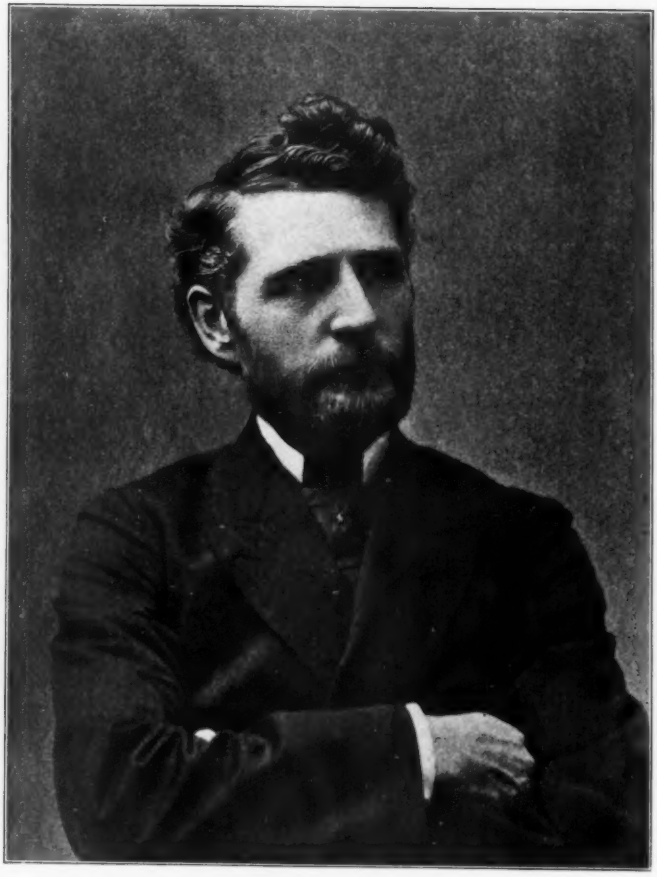

HON. JOHN M. MITCHELL.